

# **Governor's Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities**

## **Minutes**

**ATTENDEES:** Scot T. Spencer, Andrew Sawyers, Diane Matuszak, Audrey Scott, Bill Stack, Bonnie Wilson, Kristine Dunkerton, Rev. Douglas Edwards, Andrew Fellows, Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Robyn Gilden, Gary Kelman, George Oleru, Jim Richmond, Jalonnie White, Jessica Blackburn, Bob Nelson, Rebecca Clouse, Bernie Penner, Andrew Gosden, Jerrilyn Brooks, Glenn Ross, Joe Beaman, Hal Yates, Arthur Ray, Edward Dexter, Clifford Mitchell, Roger Taylor

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 24, 2003

**TIME:** 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** Department of the Environment, Aqua Conference Room  
1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore MD 21230

### **Welcome:**

- Andrew Sawyers welcomed the Commission members and other participants. All attendees introduced themselves.

### **Handouts:**

- Executive Summary of Environmental Equity Issues identified During Discussions with MDE Staff and Commission Members
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of the Agenda for 2003 Public Dialogue Sessions
- Public Dialogue Invite Letter

### **Discussions:**

- Roger Taylor of URS Coleman briefly discussed the Mobile Systems Demonstration at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Taylor works with the Army Chemical Materials Agency, Non-Stock Pile program. The demonstration reviewed techniques and processes to dispose of chemical ammunition.
- Andrew pointed out that the Prince George's County session would be held on November 5 instead of October 29<sup>th</sup>. The location of the final dialogue session will be a location in Southern Maryland or the Eastern Shore. Andrew and Joe Cullen from Public Works will meet with The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to discuss a possible collaboration effort for the final dialogue session.
- Joe Cullen from Public Works updated the Commission on his progress with planning the Public Dialogue Sessions, scheduled for October 2003. He distributed and reviewed his Executive Summary of Environmental Equity Issues identified during interviews with members of the staff at MDE and Commission members and draft agenda for the public dialogues sessions.

- Commission members had several suggestions for preparation and presentation of the Public Dialogue sessions:
  - a) Limit issue presentations to 15 minutes
  - b) Identifying examples of what community organizations are already doing and present this information as part of the issue presentations
  - c) Take some steps to notify the communities in advance of each session so they can be prepared to present their detailed concerns
  - d) Ask specific community leaders to be a part of the panel
  - e) Provide a summary of each issue with formal invite
  - f) Investigate local newspapers (i.e. the Afro, etc.) and other local establishments to distribute public dialogue information.
- Andrew asked that Commission members provide feedback as to what to include in the annual report to the Governor about the Commission. He suggested providing more of a status report that includes updates on current projects as well as future intentions of the Commission and a compilation from the public dialogue sessions that have been completed.

#### **Workgroup Update:**

- Robyn Gilden presented the Environmental Public Health Workgroup's progress. The Workgroup met with the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene to look at their databases to determine what information would be accessible and how they would be willing to help. The next steps are to determine what indicators will be used and what communities will be used in as a trial case.
- The Environmental Public Health Workgroup has also attempted to contact other Environmental commissions throughout the county to see what types of tools they have developed and their progress. Robyn thanked the volunteers from the Community Index Group for attending the meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The focus of this meeting was to decide what the tool should be developed for: a planning tool or a reactionary tool. Robyn encouraged Commission feedback on the following issues: determining the difference between Environmental Justice issues versus public health issues; and finding resources of technical assistance, people, grants to develop the tools.
- She also reminded members that the workgroup's next meeting would be held today at noon at MDE in room 4500.

#### **Adjournment:**

- Andrew Sawyers thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged everyone's future participation.
- The Commission's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at the Maryland Department of the Environment, in the Aqua Conference Room, located in the Lobby.

Respectfully submitted by Jalonne White, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003.